

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David J. Oldenkamp on 08/24/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

The claims:

7. (currently amended) A composite material that is suitable for storage at ambient temperatures, said composite material comprising:

a porous body comprising an exterior surface and interior surfaces located within said porous body, said interior surfaces further defining interstitial spaces located within said porous body;

an uncured resin component that forms a cured resin when exposed to a curing agent and heated to a curing temperature that is higher than said ambient temperature, said uncured resin component comprising a liquid part including one or more liquid thermosetting resins and a solid part that comprises particles of one or more solid thermosetting resins wherein said solid part is dispersed within said liquid part, and wherein said particles have a melting point that is above said ambient temperature and below said curing temperature, said uncured resin component further comprising a gelation agent that is present in a sufficient amount to form said liquid part into a gel that

Art Unit: 1794

is sufficiently gelatinous to maintain said particles in suspension within said liquid part at said ambient temperatures, said gelation agent having a melting temperature that is below said curing temperature and wherein the viscosity of said uncured resin component changes from a high viscosity state to a low viscosity state when the temperature of said uncured resin component is increased from said ambient temperature to said curing temperature and wherein said high viscosity state is substantially more viscous than said low viscosity state; and

a curative component comprising a curing agent for said uncured resin component, said curative component being located at the interior surfaces of said porous body and said uncured resin component being located at said exterior surface of said porous body, the curative component being separated from said uncured resin component during storage of said composite material at said ambient temperatures.

9. (previously presented) A composite material according to claim 7 wherein said porous body comprises a fiber component comprising a plurality of fibers wherein each of said fibers comprises a fiber surface, said fibers being oriented to provide said porous body comprising an exterior surface defined by said fiber surfaces located at the exterior surface of said porous body, said porous body further comprising interior surfaces defined by said fiber surfaces located within said porous body, ~~said interior surfaces further defining interstitial spaces located within said porous body.~~

Cancel claim 29.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Note that Applicant's amendment and the examiner's amendment are sufficient to overcome the 112 claim rejections and sufficient to place the instant claims in condition for allowance. Further, none of the prior art taken individually or in combination teaches or suggests a composite material having a structure set forth in the claim. Accordingly, the instant claims are deemed allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the lines and numbers of all the figures are not uniformly thick and well defined. Correction is required.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1485. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Callie Shosho can be reached on (571) 272-1123. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1794

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hai Vo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794